



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Florence, SC

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Florence was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant and a brownfields cleanup grant. Florence (population 30,248), located in eastern South Carolina, developed a Downtown Master Plan in which a 20-acre area known as the "Triangle" was determined to be the city's number one priority project for cleanup and redevelopment. The Triangle contains numerous brownfields sites, including a former metal recycling facility, former textile facility, warehouse, trucking facility, railroad property, drycleaners, and an abandoned gasoline station. Some of these sites are suspected of impacting groundwater in surrounding residential communities. The railroad that runs alongside the area is seen as the city's socioeconomic dividing line. The demographics in the Triangle's surrounding communities are very different from those



Assessment Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Florence for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities, perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments, and develop cleanup and redevelopment plans for a 20-acre area known as the Triangle, which serves as the gateway to downtown Florence.

Cleanup Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Florence for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum contamination at the former Bush Recycling site at 102 West Sumter Street. Surface, subsurface, and groundwater contamination at the site is the result of more than 50 years of scrap yard and metal recycling operations on the property and the migration of contaminants from off-site sources. Contaminants of concern include PCBs, metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, herbicides, and volatile organic compounds.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team

404-562-8866

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Florence, SC
843-665-3236

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

of the city and the State of South Carolina. Ninety-seven percent of residents in the adjacent census tracts are African-American as compared to 44.4 and 29.5 percent for the city and state, respectively. More than 31 percent of local residents live below the poverty level. In the months since the debris was removed from the Bush Recycling site, area property values have increased. The city anticipates that economic conditions will continue to improve as revitalization moves forward. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the brownfields properties is expected to serve as a catalyst for business expansion and relocation, job creation, and community development.